told by US Under Secretary of State, while recently addressing a Confederation of Indian Industry meet in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) in which field the economic development is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) During the inter-governmental talks held in November 1999, the Government of USA had proposed an open sky agreement with India. As there were differences in views on certain substantive aspects, no agreement could be reached. India has already an open sky policy for cargo operations.

(c) Economic cooperation is expected to strengthen further in areas such as information and communications technology, energy and infrastructure, manufacturing, insurance, etc., following recent economic reforms and liberalization.

Visit of British Chief of Defence Staff to Pakistan

1569. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Britain's recent reported decision to sent its Chief of Defence Staff to Pakistan on an official visit;

(b) if so, what are the information with the Government about the purpose and outcome of the visit, in terms of improvement in UKPak relations; and

(c) how it is likely to influence the peace and security of this region?

THE MINISTAR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British Government has stated that the purpose of General Guthrie's visit to Pakistan was to sent a message to the present regime in Pakistan, with regard to the need for a clear time-table for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. It was also reported that Pakistan was urged to ensure that support to cross-border terrorism in Kashmir is discontinued.

(c) The Government is of the view that all efforts aimed at restraining the Pakistani regime from pursuing its policy of crossborder terrorism in Jammu

and Kashmir and to seek the early restoration of democracy in Pakistan should contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region.

Declaring Pakistan a terrorist State

†1570. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary that United States of America should declare Pakistan a terrorist State so that India declares Pakistan a terrorist state;

(b) if not, the reasons for Pakistan not being declared a terrorist State by India, so far;

(c) whether Government are taking all measures to declare Pakistan a terrorist State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) In its interaction with the United States at political and official levels, Government have on numerous occasions made known their views on Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism against India as a matter of state policy. US Spokesmen have stated that there is evidence of general support and of ties between agencies of the Pakistan Government and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir.

Government have also been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community the facts regarding Pakistan's continued state sponsorship of terrorism against India. These have also been raised at high level bilateral discussion with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This is now increasingly reflected in official statements by several Governments and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Signing of CTBT

1571. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.